(a) whether Public Investment Board has cleared setting up a Urea Fertilizer Project at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how the demand of urea will be met by the Agriculture Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO's) proposal to set up a grass-root ammonia-urea plant at Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh has been considered by the Public Investment Board. The proposal will be posed for investment approval under the prescribed procedure after finalisation of the demand projections for nitrogen nutrient in the terminal year of the 9th Plan and the policy for capacity accretion, which is being reformulated in the light of the recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee. Any gap between the demand and the indigenous availability of urea will be met through imports.

Re-starting of Durgapur unit of HFC

1983. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minisster of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 157 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th June, 1998 and state:

(a) whether HFC Board had quantified an amount of Rs. 40 crores for renovation of critical equipments including primary reformer which caught fire on 24th June, 1997 to stabilize production at Durgapur Unit;

(b) whether funds were not made available by Government in 1997-98;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the funds for the above purpose have been made available in 1998-99; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Due to resource constraints, it has not been possibe to allocate the budgetary support required by HFC for undertaking the capital investment for renovation of critical equipments for stabilisation of production at Durgapur plant.

Pharmaceutical Units in the Country

1984. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pharmaceutical units in the Public sector in the country;

(b) whether there are some private sector pharmaceutical units also set up in the country;

(c) if so, the location of the public as well as private sector pharmaceutical units; and

(d) the guidelines prescribed by Government in manufacturing, selling and exporting of bulk drugs by these units, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There are five Central Public Sector Undertakings, namely Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (DPL) Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL); Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL); Bengal Immunity Ltd. (BIL) and Smith Stanist Pharmaceutical Ltd. (SSPL).

(b) and (c) The number of Pharmaceutical Units in the private sector is more than 20,000. Majority of these units are in the small scale sector which do not require approval from the Central Government and fall under the purview of the State Governments where they are located. Details of location of public sector pharmaceutical units is given in attached statement. (*See* below).

(d) The manufacturing activities of the Pharmaceutical units are under the regulatory control of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Exports are regulated through the current Export & Import Policy of the Government in the Ministry of Commerce. The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals do not prescribe any guidelines for sales of Pharmaceuticals except for pricing of drugs under